

Remarks

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Derkacs et al. and further in view of Kato et al. Claims 9, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claim 17 is amended to replace “spray-forms” to “ spray forms.” This corrects an obvious error making it clear that less than 10 percent of the coating occurs while the mold is rotating. Paragraph 0039 of the Specification is similarly amended.

Claim 20 is amended to limit the mold as being the inverse of the article.

Paragraph 0025 of the Specification is amended so that table 4 and mold 6 may both be “tipped at an angle relative to the normal to the ground.” This tipping of the mold is contained in originally filed claim 9 and is obvious since the mold sits on the table.

Paragraph 0034 is amended to include the statement – “In some variations, the metallic spray is stopped during each rotation of the mold.” This information was contained in originally filed claim 15.

a. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 9, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner states that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Paragraph 0025 of the Specification is amended to include the details of originally filed claim 9 and paragraph 0034 is amended to include the details of originally filed claim 15.

Paragraph 0034 has been corrected by replacing “spray-forms” to “spray forms.” This corrects an obvious error making it clear that less than 10 percent of the coating occurs while the mold is rotating.

Accordingly, claims 9, 15, and 17 are now allowable over 35 U.S.C. §112.

b. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Derkacs et al. and further in view of Kato et al.

The Applicant respectfully tranverses the Examiner’s rejection of claims 1-27 for the reasons set forth below. The Examiner incorrectly states that Derkacs “substantially shows the invention as claimed except that they do not disclose that the workpiece support indexing step.” The Derkacs reference is directed to a “method and apparatus for applying a covering of either uniform or nonuniform thickness to a workpiece” with the resultant product having “a configuration which is different than the configuration of the workpiece to which the covering was applied.” In other words, the invention of the Derkacs reference is directed to a process in which a coating is applied to a workpiece having a different configuration than the final product. In the present invention, the mold which is coated is intimately related to the configuration of the final product. Indeed, independent claims 1 and 20 require that the mold be the inverse of the article. Derkacs does not disclose such a relationship between the workpiece and the resultant article.

Derkacs is also deficient because it does not disclose a method or apparatus in which a mold is rotated in a "discrete angular increment." The Examiner concedes this point by stating "disclose that the workpiece support indexing step (see col. 10, line 61 through col. 11, line 8) is performed during rotating mode." (Office Action dated, December 16, 2004). The Examiner remedies this deficiency by citing the Kato reference that provides for "indexing through incremental angular intervals." However, the Kato reference is deficient for at least two reasons. As for the Derkacs reference, Kato does not disclose the coating of a workpiece that is the inverse of an article to be ultimately made. Kato relates to paint technology in which the paint coating is not removed from the substrate (paints never are). Moreover, Kato is from a non-analogous field. Painting an object is very different from coating a mold with a metal in order to form an article from the metal. One skilled in the art would not look towards such a reference.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, and in particular since neither Derkacs nor Kato when taken alone or in combination disclose the coating of a mold that is the inverse of the ultimately formed article, claims 1-27 of the present application are allowable over the combination of Derkacs and Kato.

Conclusion

Applicant has made a genuine effort to respond to each of the Examiner's rejections in advancing the prosecution of this case. Applicant believes that all formal and substantive requirements for patentability have been met and that this case is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If a telephone or video conference would help expedite allowance or resolve any additional questions, such a conference is invited at the Examiner's convenience.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are required as a result of the filing of this paper. However, the Examiner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credits

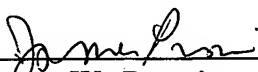
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as a result of the filing of this paper to Ford Global Technologies, Inc.'s Deposit Account No. 06-1510 as authorized by the original transmittal letter in this case. If a telephone or video conference would help expedite allowance or resolve any additional questions, such a conference is invited at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Collins

By 
James W. Proscia
Reg. No. 47,010
Attorney/Agent for Applicant

Date: 02/16/05

BROOKS KUSHMAN P.C.
1000 Town Center, 22nd Floor
Southfield, MI 48075-1238
Phone: 248-358-4400
Fax: 248-358-3351